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Amendments to Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) Heat, flame, and electric arc resistant fabric (1) for use as single or outer layer of protective garments, characterized in that it comprises at least two separate single plies (2,3) each comprising a warp and a weft system, the at least two separate single plies (2,3) being assembled together at predefined positions so as to build pockets having a side (S1) and a side (S2), the warp and the weft systems of the at least two separate single plies (2,3) being based on materials independently chosen from the group consisting of aramid fibers and filaments, polybenzimidazol fibers and filaments, ~~polyamidimid~~ polyamideimid fibers and filaments, poly(~~paraphophenylene~~ paraphenylene benzobisaxazole) fibers and filaments, phenol-formaldehyde fibers and filaments, melamine fibers and filaments, natural fibers and filaments, synthetic fibers and filaments, artificial fibers and filaments, glass fibers and filaments, carbon fibers and filaments, metal fibers and filaments, and composites thereof;

wherein each separate single ply (2,3) is made of a material having a different dimensional thermal shrinkage; and

wherein the two separate single plies (2,3) are woven together in such a way that they cross each other at the predefined positions so that the same side (S1 or S2) of two adjacent pockets is alternately made of the two different separate single plies (2,3).

2. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 1, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two separate single plies (2,3) are, independently ~~to each other, based on~~ chosen from the group consisting of monofilament yarns, multifilament yarns, spun yarns and core spun yarns.

3. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two separate single plies (2,3) are, independently ~~to each other~~ chosen from the group consisting of single yarns, twisted yarns and hybrid yarns.

4. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 3, wherein the warp and weft systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently ~~to each other~~ chosen

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from the group consisting of single and twisted yarns comprising aramid fibers, aramid monofilaments, aramid multifilaments or composite fibers of aramid and polybenzimidazol.

5. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the warp systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently ~~to each other~~ chosen from the group consisting of single and twisted yarns comprising aramid monofilaments or aramid multifilaments, and the weft systems comprise, independently ~~to each other~~ chosen from the group consisting of and in an alternate sequence, single or twisted yarns of aramid monofilaments or single or twisted yarns of aramid multifilaments.

6. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 5, wherein the weft systems of the at least two single plies (2,3) comprise, independently ~~to each other~~ chosen from the group consisting of and in an alternate sequence, at least two different single and twisted yarns of aramid filaments.

7. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 consisting of two separate single plies (2,3).

8. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to claim 7, wherein the two separate single plies (2,3) comprise aramid fibers chosen from the group consisting of poly-m-phenylenisophthalamid, ~~poly-p-phenyleneterephthalamid~~ poly-p-phenyleneterephthalamid and mixtures thereof.

Claims 9-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to ~~any claim 7 to 12~~, wherein the two separate single plies (2,3) are assembled together at predefined positions so as to build closed, adjacent pockets.

14. (Original) The fabric (1) according to claim 13, wherein the closed, adjacent pockets are square shaped.

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15. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein each side of the pockets is between 5 and 50 mm.

16. (Original) The fabric (1) according to claim 15, wherein each side of the pockets is between 8 and 32 mm.

17. (Currently Amended) The fabric (1) according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, having a specific weight between 100 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 900 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

18. (Original) The fabric (1) according to claim 17, having a specific weight between 170 and 320 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) Garment for protection against heat, flames and electric arc comprising a structure made of at least one layer of a fabric (1) according to ~~any~~ claim 1 to 19.

21. (Currently Amended) The garment according to claim 20, comprising an internal layer, ~~optionally an intermediate layer made of a breathing waterproof material, and an outer layer made of the fabric according to any claim 1 to 19.~~

Claims 22-24 (Cancelled)